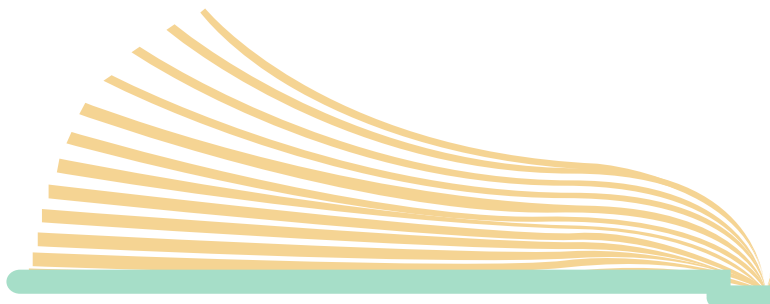


Discussion Notes

1. ***Sometimes I feel like everyone else was handed a copy of the rules and mine got lost.*** Discuss the characteristics of autism and how they might make typical teenage situations more challenging for someone like Grace.
2. ***I've been on a date, nothing disastrous has happened and today I'm winning at being a human.*** What represents a good day for Grace versus a bad one?
3. ***Anna is one of my safe places. She's one of the things that doesn't move and doesn't change. That's a good thing.*** Give a couple of examples of Anna being a good friend to Grace, as somebody who is sensitive to her condition.
4. ***I keep veering from one feeling to the next. Maybe this is what dates are like. I don't have anything to compare it with, so I don't know.*** Discuss the way Grace and Gabe's relationship develops throughout the book. Do you think dating is harder for Grace than the average teenager, or are her uncertainties relatable?
5. ***I wish hard that Dad might hear my thoughts and magic himself from the frozen wilderness to be back here.*** How does Dad's absence impact on the family?





6. ***I don't speak all afternoon, and nobody notices.*** Discuss the events surrounding Leah's alcohol poisoning and their effect on Grace. Do you think she is stronger by the end of this book as a result?

7. ***'It's like living with all your senses turned up to full volume all the time,' I say. [...] 'And it's like living life in a different language, so you can't ever quite relax because even when you think you're fluent it's still using a different part of your brain so by the end of the day you're exhausted.'***
Discuss the role of books in educating readers about specific conditions. Do you feel better equipped to interact with an autistic person in real life as a result of reading this book?

8. The author and her daughter have both received an autism diagnosis. Discuss how first-hand experience can contribute to the authenticity of a story.

